

Remarks

The ~~unrelated~~ allowability of claims 3 and 9 is noted with appreciation. By way of the foregoing amendments, claims 3 and 9 have been rewritten in independent form. In doing so, the alternative language "particularly by ..." has been deleted, reference is now made to "at least one medical treatment device or treatment supporting device" since the dependent claims refer to a single device and because the invention often will be practiced in conjunction with the positioning of a single device.


In addition, claims 1, 8, 13 and 14 have been canceled, while other claims have been amended to depend from allowable claim 3 or 9, and further to improve the readability of the claims. Also, new claims 15-24 have been added to provide more comprehensive coverage of the invention. Claims 15-24 depend directly or indirectly from allowable claim 3 or 9.

On September 4, 2002, an Information Disclosure Statement was filed. An acknowledgment of consideration of the therein cited documents is requested.

In view of the foregoing, all of the objections and rejections are now moot and the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP

By 
Don W. Bulson, Reg. No. 28,192

1621 Euclid Avenue
Nineteenth Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
(216) 621-1113

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

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Date: December 13, 2002


Don W. Bulson

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Clean Version of Replacement Paragraph/Section/Claim
with Instructions for Entry

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 1, 8, 13 and 14 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the below-indicated claims to read as follows:

2. (Amended) The apparatus as set forth in claim 3, wherein said transportation means comprises a movable vehicle on which said device is positioned.

3. (Amended) An apparatus for positioning at least one medical treatment device or treatment supporting device by a transportation means to move said device to a predetermined position, wherein said transportation means includes an automatically guided transport system, and wherein said automatically guided transport system comprises at least one of the following navigation systems:

- an optical tracking navigation system;
- a laser navigation system;
- a magnetic navigation system;
- an inductive guidance navigation system.

4. (Amended) The apparatus as set forth in claim 3, wherein said device is a nuclear spin tomograph.

5. (Not Amended) The apparatus as set forth in claim 4, wherein said nuclear spin tomographic device comprises super-conductive coils of a magnetic flux density of approximately 0.5 Tesla.

6. (Amended) The apparatus as set forth in claim 3, wherein said device is one of the following:

- a device related to computer tomography;
- an x-ray bow;

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- A2
- a microscope;
 - an operating table;
 - a surgeon's stool;
 - a treatment navigation device;
 - an anesthesia-related device;
 - a vehicle for accessories;
 - an autoclave device;
 - a patient-supervising monitor;
 - a sterile material.

7. (Amended) The apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein said transport system includes a control unit carried by said vehicle, and said control unit includes a radio or wire interface for external control.

9. (Amended) A method for positioning at least one medical treatment device or treatment supporting device, said device being moved to a predetermined position by a transportation means, wherein said transportation means is controlled by an automatically guided transport system; and wherein said automatically guided transport system uses at least one of the following navigation systems for steering purposes:

- A3
- an optical tracking navigation system;
 - a laser navigation system;
 - a magnetic navigation system;
 - an inductive guidance navigation system.

10. (Amended) The method as set forth in claim 9, wherein a mobile nuclear spin tomographic device is transported.

11. (Amended) The method as set forth in claim 9, wherein one of the following devices is being transported:

- a device related to computer tomography;
- an x-ray bow;
- a microscope, particularly a surgical microscope;

- a3
- an operating table;
 - a surgeon's stool;
 - a treatment navigation device;
 - an anesthesia-related device;
 - a vehicle for accessories;
 - an autoclave device;
 - a patient-supervising monitor;
 - a sterile material.

12. (Amended) The method as set forth in 9, wherein said device is carried on a vehicle, said transport system is provided on said vehicle and is externally activated via a radio or wire interface.

Please add the following new claims:

15. (New) The apparatus as set forth in claim 3, wherein said transport system is an optical tracking navigation system, and said optical tracking navigation system includes a ground guidance band and an optical sensor for sensing the ground guidance band.

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16. (New) The apparatus as set forth in claim 15, wherein the optical tracking navigation system includes a path measuring system.

17. (New) The apparatus as set forth in claim 3, wherein said transport system is a laser navigation system, and said laser navigation system includes a laser, reflectors and a path measuring system.

18. (New) The apparatus as set forth in claim 3, wherein said transport system is a magnetic navigation system, and said magnetic navigation system includes a ground floor magnetic track or magnetic strip and a path measuring system.

19. (New) The apparatus as set forth in claim 3, wherein said transport system is an inductive guidance navigation system, and said inductive guidance navigation system includes a ground guidance wire with a frequency generator, and a steering antenna.

20. (New) The apparatus as set forth in claim 19, wherein the inductive guidance navigation system includes a path measuring system.

21. (New) The apparatus as set forth in claim 3, wherein said movable vehicle is self-driven.

22. (New) The apparatus as set forth in claim 3, wherein the device is an image-generating device.

23. (New) The method as set forth in claim 9, wherein said device is carried on a vehicle, and the vehicle is self-driven.

24. (New) The method as set forth in claim 9, wherein said device is moved to a pre-position at a first speed and then moved from the pre-position to an operative position at a slower speed for more precise positioning of the device at the operative position.

B. Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 1, 8, 13 and 14 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the below-indicated claims to read as follows:

2. (Amended) The apparatus as set forth in claim [1] 3, wherein said transportation means comprises a movable vehicle on which said device is positioned.

3. (Amended) [The apparatus as set forth in claim 1 or 2,] An apparatus for positioning at least one medical treatment device or treatment supporting device by a transportation means to move said device to a predetermined position, wherein said transportation means includes an automatically guided transport system, and wherein said automatically guided transport system comprises at least one of the following navigation systems:

- an optical tracking navigation system [, particularly by means of a ground guidance band, actual value markers as well as an optical sensor and a path measuring system provided at said transportation means];
- a laser navigation system [, particularly by means of a laser, reflectors and a path measuring system provided at said transportation means];
- a magnetic navigation system [, particularly by means of a ground floor magnetic track as well as a magnetic strip, gyroscope and path measuring system provided at said transportation means];
- an inductive guidance navigation system [, particularly by means of a ground guidance wire with frequency generator, actual value generators as well as driving and steering antennae and a path measuring system provided at said transportation means].

4. (Amended) The apparatus as set forth in [any of claims 1 to 3] claim 3, wherein said device is a nuclear spin tomograph.

5. (Not Amended) The apparatus as set forth in claim 4, wherein said nuclear spin tomographic device comprises super-conductive coils of a magnetic flux density of approximately 0.5 Tesla.

6. (Amended) The apparatus as set forth in [any of claims 1 to 3] claim 3, wherein said device is one of the following:

- a device related to computer tomography;
- an x-ray bow;
- a microscope [, particularly a surgical microscope] ;
- an operating table;
- a surgeon's stool;
- a treatment navigation device;
- an anesthesia-related [devices] device;
- a vehicle for accessories;
- an autoclave [devices] device;
- a patient-supervising [monitors] monitor;
- a sterile material.

7. (Amended) The apparatus as set forth in [any of claims 1 to 6] claim 2, wherein said transport system [is provided at the transportation means] includes a control unit carried by said vehicle, and [comprises] said control unit includes a radio or wire interface for external control.

9. (Amended) [The method as set forth in claim 8,] A method for positioning at least one medical treatment device or treatment supporting device, said device being moved to a predetermined position by a transportation means, wherein said transportation means is controlled by an automatically guided transport system; and wherein said automatically guided transport system uses at least one of the following navigation systems for steering purposes:

- an optical tracking navigation system [, particularly by means of a ground guidance band, actual value markers as well as an optical sensor and a path measuring system provided at said transportation means] ;
- a laser navigation system [, particularly by means of a laser, reflectors and a path measuring system provided at said transportation means] ;
- a magnetic navigation system [, particularly by means of a ground floor magnetic track as well as a magnetic strip, gyroscope and path measuring system provided at said transportation means];
- an inductive guidance navigation system [, particularly by means of a ground guidance wire with frequency generator, actual value generators as well as driving and steering antennae and a path measuring system provided at said transportation means] .

10. (Amended) The method as set forth in claim [8 or] 9, wherein a mobile nuclear spin tomographic device is transported.

11. (Amended) The method as set forth in claim [8 or] 9, wherein one of the following devices is being transported:

- a device related to computer tomography;
- an x-ray bow;
- a microscope, particularly a surgical microscope;
- an operating table;
- a surgeon's stool;
- a treatment navigation device;
- an anesthesia-related [devices] device;
- a vehicle for accessories;
- an autoclave [devices] device;
- a patient-supervising [monitors] monitor;
- a sterile material.

12. (Amended) The method as set forth in [any of claims 8 to 11] 9, wherein said device is carried on a vehicle, said transport system is provided [at said transportation means] on said vehicle and is externally activated via a radio or wire interface.

Please add the following new claims:

15. (New) The apparatus as set forth in claim 3, wherein said transport system is an optical tracking navigation system, and said optical tracking navigation system includes a ground guidance band and an optical sensor for sensing the ground guidance band.

16. (New) The apparatus as set forth in claim 15, wherein the optical tracking navigation system includes a path measuring system.

17. (New) The apparatus as set forth in claim 3, wherein said transport system is a laser navigation system, and said laser navigation system includes a laser, reflectors and a path measuring system.

18. (New) The apparatus as set forth in claim 3, wherein said transport system is a magnetic navigation system, and said magnetic navigation system includes a ground floor magnetic track or magnetic strip and a path measuring system.

19. (New) The apparatus as set forth in claim 3, wherein said transport system is an inductive guidance navigation system, and said inductive guidance navigation

system includes a ground guidance wire with a frequency generator, and a steering antenna.

20. (New) The apparatus as set forth in claim 19, wherein the inductive guidance navigation system includes a path measuring system.

21. (New) The apparatus as set forth in claim 3, wherein said movable vehicle is self-driven.

22. (New) The apparatus as set forth in claim 3, wherein the device is an image-generating device.

23. (New) The method as set forth in claim 9, wherein said device is carried on a vehicle, and the vehicle is self-driven.

24. (New) The method as set forth in claim 9, wherein said device is moved to a pre-position at a first speed and then moved from the pre-position to an operative position at a slower speed for more precise positioning of the device at the operative position.